

Weymouth



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Issue 158 Thursday, July 26 2012

'WE CAN'T WAIT'

WEYMOUTH and Portland will have the eyes of the world on it when the Olympic Games start tomorrow (Friday).

All ten medal sailing events are being held at Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy where the venue will be under heavy security including soldiers being used

Eyes of the world on Weymouth as Olympics begin

by Harry Walton

in the wake of the news that security company G4S didn't have enough guards.

Giant screens on the

beach will help keep crowds up to date on how events are going while there is plenty of other entertainment for them during the Olympic period.

The Bayside Festival near the Pavilion opens today with a fantastic array of stalls on show backed up by scores and scores of bands performing live.

Spectators can also enjoy the first phase today of the Battle for the Winds complete with amazing wind catching vehicles as the struggle starts to prevent the evil Doldrum from stealing the Olympic winds. The climax to the



■ **BRING IT ON:** John Tweed looking forward to the start of the Olympic sailing events

going to be watching us in coming days and this can only boost our future economy and tourism in the long run."

Academy chief executive John Tweed said: "After all this time we are now just 24 hours away from the start of the Olympic sailing events and we can't wait!"

■ **PEOPLE** are being invited to watch the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games live tomorrow (Friday) from London on two giant screens on Wey-

mouth Beach.

The Live Site will open to the public from 1pm and from 2pm-8pm people will be able to enjoy singing performances from the large-scale choral project, Coastal Voices while soaking up the Olympic atmosphere in the build up to the ceremony.

The main ceremony will start at 9pm and during the event there will be a spectacular fireworks display over Weymouth Bay.

The free-of-charge Live Site is at the southern **TURN to page 3**

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INSIDE - An 8-page guide to help you enjoy summer 2012

Puddle 'doesn't yet warrant extensive works' says council

by Harry Walton
hdswalton@yahoo.co.uk

A WEYMOUTH family says it has to brave "tidal wave" conditions near its driveway entrance because Dorset County Council won't deal with a persistent flood point. The soggy situation has dogged the Liveley household for years and they feel enough is enough.

Bob Liveley said: "When a lorry, bus or any vehicle drives through the excess water it is like a tidal wave. You have to take care when walking down the drive or you could get soaked."

"It got worse when the road was reconstructed about three to four years ago. Prior to that it used to percolate through the crumbling surface."

"I pointed out to the engineer in charge at the time that, if extra drainage was not provided, then flooding would happen. He assured me it would not. So

much for the experts. A little common sense would not go amiss."

Mr Liveley said he had reported the flooding for years by phone and letter with no response, his last letter being sent out following a Redlands public meeting where the council asked for comments on how to improve the Dorchester Road.

Mr Liveley wrote then: "Once again we are asked by Dorset County Council to view plans for the improvement of Dorchester Road. Regular maintenance would be top of my list."

"The photograph enclosed of the flooding outside our home has been reported to the county council on many occasions with no response or actions."

"Vehicles drive through it, depositing mud on to the pavement and our drive

which then requires cleaning."

Mr Liveley told the *View* that DCC had ignored them and said: "There has been no contact in person, by phone or by letter."

A DCC spokesman said: "We are aware that there is an issue with surface water on Dorchester Road and have visited the site a number of times to inspect it."

"A number of calls were made to the household who reported the issue, but we weren't able to leave a message. A letter was sent on March 20th thanking the householder for drawing the issue to our attention and confirming that we carry out regular inspections and, where required, maintenance of the highway."

"Though there is a large puddle at the roadside, the problem doesn't yet warrant the extensive works that would need to be carried out."

"The road is inspected monthly to assess whether any repair work to the sur-



■ WATER constantly lying outside Mr Liveley's house in Dorchester Road

face or drainage would need to be carried out and we are aware of and are monitoring this particular stretch of road in case the problem worsens."

Mr Liveley's parting shot was to say he had just seen a cyclist nearly knocked off

his bike.

He added: "He rode around the lake, a driver blasted his horn and swerved around him."

Olympics opening on big screens

FROM page 1

Pavilion end of Weymouth Beach but, while the site will be able to entertain up to 15,000 people at any one time, access to it will be closely controlled and managed for safety reasons.

Weymouth and Portland

council management committee chairman Councillor Mike Goodman said: "We are very much looking forward to the start of the Olympics and will be playing our part to deliver a safe and enjoyable Games time for residents and visitors in Weymouth

and Portland.

"We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who was part of the Torch Relay and who was inspired to help. The feedback we have had has been very positive and we are confident that the same community spirit will be alive throughout the Games."

The council has recruited a team of around 500 Weymouth and Portland Ambassadors to welcome visitors and give out infor-

mation and advice at key locations during the 2012 celebrations.

The Weymouth and Portland Live Site will be screening the London 2012 sailing events from Sunday July 29th-Saturday August 11 from noon until 6pm each day. The site will also be used to screen other Olympic sporting competitions, especially in the evenings when some of the key athletic events will be held.

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Youth arrested after woman's body is found

A 16-YEAR-OLD local boy has been arrested on suspicion of murder after the body of a woman was found in Weymouth.

Police received a report at 1.06pm on Saturday that a woman had been injured at Fiveways Court in Benville Road.

Officers attended the flats and found the body of a woman. They said her death was being treated as "suspicious" and 30 officers were involved in the investigation.

A cordon was put in place around the property while forensic experts examined the scene, some of the officers involved in the investigation were armed, checkpoints were set up and the boy was finally arrested on Portland.

The coroner has been informed and a Home Office pathologist performed a post mortem on victim who police say was known to the boy.

Detective Inspector Marcus Hester, of Dorset Police's Major Crime Team said: "I can confirm that Dorset Police has launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the deceased woman.

"As a result, members of the public may have noticed increased police activity within the Weymouth area.

"I want to reassure the public that, following our ongoing investigation, it has been established that all parties involved in this incident were known to each other.

"This incident is not connected to the Olympic preparations currently ongoing in Weymouth and Portland.

"Even though someone has been arrested, I would still like to speak with anyone who saw anything suspicious or unusual in the Benville Road area between 11am on Friday July 20th and 1pm on Saturday July 21st."

Witnesses and anyone with information should call Dorset Police in confidence on 101 quoting incident number 21:300 or call the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111.

BID hoping for a 'yes' vote

WEYMOUTH'S Business Improvement District (BID) is now ready to start consultations with local businesses and has launched a brand new set of marketing and promotional materials.

A successful Weymouth BID, supported and formed by the local business community would deliver an investment of between £900,000-£1.2 million over five years which could be spent on projects to improve business prosperity. The BID will provide extra support and resources for the business community throughout the resort.

BID chairman Nigel Reed said: "Following the financial backing that

the BID received from the local authority we are now ready to start the promotion and consultation process with the business community.

"This will involve collating data from businesses within the BID area that will have a vote. The business community assisted by the steering group will then create a business plan which hopefully will be supported with a 'yes' vote in early 2013. The business plan will be essential to the success of the Weymouth BID and will need to show that it will create a viable, practical and creative vision for our town."

BID marketing group chairman Brian Cooper said: "Initially each

business will be contacted by telephone to confirm correct contact details. This will be followed by a pack of information and a questionnaire being sent to the business and then a follow up phone call.

"This way it will give businesses the opportunity to ask any initial questions that they may have at an early stage and to get one of the BID steering group to call back."

The BID website will be updated in early August and this will be a way for local businesses to contribute throughout the consultation process and help form the business plan put forward in the formal Ballot which will be conducted in early 2013.



■ NEW officers for Weymouth and Portland Lions from l to r, Colin Winder (Admin Treasurer), David Tatthersall (Director), Dave Woolford (Secretary), outgoing President Trevor Stratton, incoming Vice President Russ Woolley, incoming President Richard Burgess, John Davies (Tail Twister) and Les Board (Chairman of Welfare)

A NEW presidential year has started for Weymouth and Portland Lions Club, the local service club responsible for the Beach Motocross, a free Christmas show for the elderly and the Christmas Day cross harbour swim.

In accepting the badge of office from outgoing President Trevor Stratton, Richard Burgess said he

was honoured to be made president of the club as he was originally attracted to become a member by the code of ethics and their dedication to helping local and international communities.

"My objective will be to raise more money to help those in need with the slogan 'Lots of money to help lots of people'" said incoming

President Richard Burgess.

The Lions Club will be going into overdrive over the next few weeks in a frenzy of fundraising fun. Among the events being organised are the Street Busk on Saturday July 21st, the Lions Youth Brass Concert Tour from July 21st-26th and ticket sales at Weymouth Carnival.



Cheque for new cooker

A GENEROUS donation will help to buy a cooker for Weymouth Lifeboat Station.

Brian Barton of the Loyal Manor Lodge of Freemasons is pictured (left) presenting a cheque for £300 to Weymouth RNLI lifeboat mechanic Phil Hansford.

Phil said that with the standby crews for the Olympics needing to be fed, the cooker will be put to good use.



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Taking a peek inside the new heritage centre

AN exhibition celebrating Dorset's living seas took centre stage when the £1 million new Chesil Beach Centre re-opened between Portland and Weymouth.

The open day exhibition included photographs, a marine touch and feel area, marine artwork and conservation displays.

Discover Chesil project

officer Emily Brown said: "The redevelopment of the centre has been a very exciting time and to see it complete now is fantastic.

"What we were able to

show visitors at our open day was just a fraction of what we plan.

"By the autumn we will have installed interactive displays about Chesil Beach, its geology, wildlife and people."

"There will also be a programme of events available for our visitors to enjoy and we hope that lots of local people will come down and use the centre regularly."

"The new centre, which is three times bigger than the previous building, will be run by Dorset Wildlife Trust and includes a learning area which can accommodate school groups.

It is also available for community events while visitors can also enjoy a cafe run by Masterchef star Mat Follas.

Among open day visitors was Weymouth and Portland mayor Margaret Leicester who said: "I think it looks quite exciting and that it will attract a lot of people."

Fleet warden Don Moxom said: "I think the new centre is fantastic. It is a lovely uplifting place to come to and once the interactive displays are in place it will offer a whole new experience for visitors."

Weymouth and Portland council spokesman Simon Williams said: "It is a testament to what can be achieved through perseverance and partnership working which has provided a fantastic centre for local people, visitors and especially school and college visitors who come to Chesil and the Fleet."



■ PROJECT officer Emily Brown at the £1million Chesil Beach Centre

School shows off 'a real treat' of a garden

by Harry Walton
hdswalton@yahoo.co.uk

was being opened under the National Gardens Scheme.

On show was everything

from a World War II garden complete with air raid shelter to a new bird watching hide.

Court Show. Garden spokesman Helen Toft said: "It was the first time we had welcomed the gardening public here which was quite exciting and I think they had a real treat."



■ SOME of the lovely floral displays in the Holy Trinity Primary School environmental garden

Sleek new wine bar opens on Esplanade

A GLEAMING new wine and tapas bar has opened in Weymouth.

Bar Acqua on the Esplanade in the Acqua Beach Hotel, formerly the Concorde Hotel, was packed for its opening night.

It was officially opened by Weymouth and Portland Deputy Mayor Ray Banham who said: "How welcome it is in this Jubilee and Olympic year to be able to open a fabulous, sophisticated new venue."

"I can do nothing but help improve the local economy and provide a venue where people can enjoy quality wine and food using local ingredients in refined surroundings."



■ DEPUTY Mayor Ray Banham stands next to Charlotte Weaver as he opens Bar Acqua

Owner Charlotte Weaver said: "I wanted to create one of the funkiest wine bars in the area and we have definitely succeeded."

"I set out to create a venue that I would like to enjoy a drink in and every-

thing has come together perfectly."

"We have placed special emphasis on our cocktails and jelly shooters while our tapas is really mouth-watering, using all sorts of ingredients from cured fish to smoked duck in a

style which has gone for quality rather than quantity."

"All in all Bar Acqua is unrecognisable from what was here before and I hope it will go from strength to strength."

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'A living community' - not for the dead

ANGRY allotment holders are telling Weymouth and Portland council that they don't want their carefully tilled ground used as a potential cemetery overspill area.

Part of Westham Crossroads Allotments site has been suggested as a possible extension for the nearby cemetery in the proposed Local Plan, but allotments chairman Taff Morris has protested at the idea.

He said allotments had been cultivated there since the Second World War and there was cur-

by Harry Walton
hdswalton@yahoo.co.uk

rently nowhere near enough allotments to comply with current legislation and local needs.

Reducing allotments further by taking some for graves would just make the situation worse, he said.

He added: "The requisition of our allotments cannot be deemed as fundamental to the overall Plan because it clearly states that no one part of

the Plan failing would be detrimental to the success of the rest."

Mr Morris said the Westham Crossroads allotments had become "a living community" which councillors recognised for its sheer hard work and ingenuity in transforming overgrown land to create a wildlife garden, orchard, copse and a pond with work going on for a children's education area, a compostable toilet,

a disabled access and a second walkway.

He said: "The misconception that an allotment site is a place where grey haired old men grow lettuce and compare the size of their onions is now proved to be 'old fashioned' and downright idiotic."

"Our site has a growing membership of more than 100 including more than 40 children/young persons.

"Would councillors consider destroying a village community? Have they not considered the recla-

mation of existing burial land where graves are over 75 years old and unattended."

He suggested using the land promised for allotments at Tumbledown Farm for cemetery use or buying other land through compulsory purchase such as the former Ministry of Defence land at Camp Road now owned by a development company.

He said: "This would make a wonderful cemetery that would last for many generations."

Mr Morris added that the allotments were "an oasis of life" and using such land for a cemetery would be "ill-advised" and "short-sighted".

He concluded: "The judgement of the council is meant to be wise decision making on behalf of the people who elect them to office.

"I therefore humbly suggest that you select the good parts of the Local Plan with respect to the Tumbledown Farm project and discard the sublimely ridiculous such as the appropriation of the Westham Crossroads allotment site for cemetery use."

■ A NEW wildlife garden at Weymouth's Westham Crossroads Allotments has been officially named.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Wildlife garden was opened by allotments president Mike Pugh.

The garden has proved a triumph for hard work, transforming a bramble-choked area into a rich environment.

A pond has already attracted frogs, newts and nesting ducks while more than 20 species of bird and five species of butterfly have been spotted as well as foxes, grass snakes and slow worms, birds of prey also hunting the area.

The site has also seen a small orchard planted and a copse which includes an oak tree donated by the Queen from her Sandringham estate while an education area for children is also being prepared.



■ CHILDREN watch as Mike Pugh unveils the garden name plaque which was supported by Synergy Housing



QE status protects sports field for future generations

■ WEYMOUTH and Portland Mayor Margaret Leicester unveils the Queen Elizabeth II plaque at Redlands

HUNDREDS of people attended an Asda Active event in Weymouth which was held as part of the Redlands Community Sports Festival.

The event, jointly staged with Weymouth College, also saw Weymouth and Portland Mayor Margaret Leicester unveil a Queen Elizabeth II plaque to celebrate the field's protected status.

Mrs Leicester said: "It is always great that facilities are provided for activities for the public to take part in and Redlands is the sporting heart of the community. QE II status protects it for the future."

Asda Active is a new UK-wide community initiative to motivate families to be active and it had a wide range of activities including football, cricket, martial arts, athletics, Zumba and many more.

Asda Weymouth store manager Andy Felix, said: "The Asda Active zone gave local families a chance to come and enjoy

their newly-protected space and try sports and activities they might not normally have had a chance to.

"Hopefully people will be inspired to carry on the sport at a local club and continue to enjoy their outdoor space – it's a great way to spend some time together as a family without spending a lot of money."

Redlands Community Sports Hub is an outdoor space which local people recently helped protect through the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge run by charity Fields in Trust and supported by Asda.

Fields in Trust is marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by protecting 2,012 outdoor spaces from development and ensuring local children and future generations have somewhere to relax and play. Redlands Community Sports Hub is one of those spaces.

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Ridgeway survey prior to Lottery application



■ JOE Stevens with the Ridgeway survey

PEOPLE had a chance to give their views on South Dorset Ridgeway when a special survey was held at Littlemoor, Weymouth.

The Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty group wanted to gather information ahead of their bid for Heritage Lottery funding to develop the Ridgeway as a better place for wildlife, walking access and educational facilities including details of the route's rich history.

AONB spokesman Joe Stevens said: "We hoped people would tell us what they thought about the Ridgeway and what

about it was attractive to them.

"We offered a very basic survey about walking, cycling, buses, cars and views and asked people to use coloured balls to vote for what practical aspect of the Ridgeway appealed to them.

"It helped to show us whether people walked the route, drove by it or just looked at it.

"We had some great responses including one from a woman who said the new cycle route allows her to go to Dorchester on her mobility scooter."

Coronation and jubilee memories in Upwey and Broadwey

Do you remember how Upwey and Broadwey celebrated the Queen's Coronation and Jubilees?

A topical display in this Diamond Jubilee year can be found at Weymouth's Upwey Craft Show which contains celebratory information from the Upwey and Broadwey History Collection showing how villagers worked hard to provide entertainment and keepsakes for the Coronation, Silver and Golden Jubilees.

Tea parties, dances, sports, fancy dress and decorated houses have all played their part over the years.

At the Coronation celebrations in 1953, Fred Strange dressed as Winston Churchill, then Prime Minister. His wife was so impressed she sent a photo to 10 Downing Street, which replied: "The Prime Minister was interested to see the photograph which is enclosed as you will no doubt like to keep it."

Fundraising in the run up to the Silver Jubilee in 1977 enabled all the children in the



■ SOME of the Fancy Dress entries in 1953. From left to right, back: Andrew Stainer, Ann Chivers, Suzanne Record, Mrs Isaacs, Karen Brown, Joan Cornick, David Critchell, Cheryl Austin, Mabel Scott and Valerie Polden; front, Carol Cole, Kenny Isaacs, Susan Scriven, Vivienne Hoddinott, Ena Newton, Diane Hoddinott, Richard Mayo, Pauline Orchard, Sarah Griffin, Gillian Stainer, Margaret Edwards and June Wright.

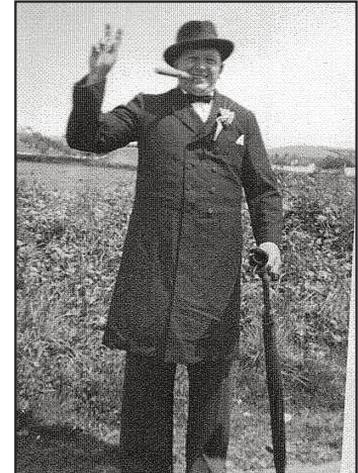
parishes under the age of 15 to receive a Jubilee Crown. There were also parties and entertainment for all ages.

At the Golden Jubilee in 2002 a village picnic went ahead despite thieves stealing almost two-thirds of the posters put up to advertise the event. Everyone rallied round and about 200 people thronged the paddock near Upwey House.

Sue Virgin, who looks after the collection said: "If anyone has photos or memories of these or other celebrations it would be great to add them to the collection. Just bring a copy along to the show or email sue.virgin@gmail.com.

"As the show takes place in the old village school, there will also be photos and memories of school days for past pupils to enjoy."

The Upwey Craft Show, featuring genuine handmade local crafts, is open daily from 10am-6pm until Sunday, July 29th at the Old School Village Hall, Church Street next to the Wishing Well.



■ FRED Strange as Winston Churchill

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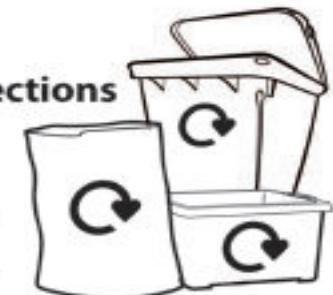
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Weymouth and Portland rubbish and recycling collections during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

26 July – 6 September



Collection days will not change during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, **26 July – 6 September**.

However, rounds may start and finish earlier or later than usual. During this time please:

- Put your bins/bags/containers out by **6am** on the morning of collection
- Do not put bins/bags/containers out before **8pm** the night before
- Do not report a missed collection until after **4pm**

Early collection areas

Some residents in parts of Wyke, Rodwell, Lanehouse, Weymouth town centre, Hope Square and the Nothe have been sent information asking that bins/bags/containers are put out by **4am** so that collections can be completed by **10am** from **26 July – 12 August**.

For more information and live updates please visit
www.dorsetforyou.com/waste2012
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Thank you!

Sitting in the shade



■ FROM the left are Paul Norman, Sophie Challoner, Joshua Bishop, James Robb and Wey Valley business manager Rob Cole.

STAFF and student panels unanimously voted to mark the progress of Weymouth's Wey Valley School membership of a co-operative trust by launching a canopied seating area.

The site near the school entrance will be for all members of the community to use during summer months before, during and after the school day.

Students marked this by taking part in a co-operative art project which will see major art works displayed across the campus.

The school said co-operative values of self-help and self-responsibility can be seen through these contributions and one

of the outcomes of the democratic voting of head boy and girl at Wey Valley has been a team of senior leaders who have stepped forward to help younger students.

Wey Valley said all members of the community had a vested interest in its success and the vision is to raise the aspirations of all learners.

Deputy headteacher Paul Norman said: "It is a lovely seating area, perfect for the community."

Governor Pam Nixon said: "I have been involved with the school for many years and I am delighted to see it going from strength to strength."



■ DAVID Exley visits the Samaritans' Weymouth branch

Samaritans welcome biker

A MOTORCYCLIST who is riding to every Samaritans branch in the country has been welcomed to Weymouth by Mayor Margaret Leicester.

Samaritans volunteer David Exley is travelling around the UK and Ireland to raise awareness of the charity and will cover more than 6,000 miles visiting each of the 201 branches to highlight their vital 24-hour service.

David, 64, is completing the ride in memory of his brother, Tim, and son, James, who both sadly committed suicide.

David said: "My younger brother Tim took his own life 24 years ago and tragically in 2007 my son, James, also ended his life.

"I really hope that my challenge will mean that more people will be aware of the support Samaritans offer. That way some good can come out of what has been a very difficult time for myself and

my family."

Mrs Leicester said: "This is a fantastic effort after his double loss. If the Samaritans had been contacted that loss could perhaps have been averted."

"We are really indebted in Weymouth to the round-the-clock work local Samaritans do. Their ability to share people's emotional burdens is more important than ever in the current economic climate."

Local Samaritans director David Webb said: "Last year at Weymouth we answered the phone well over 30,000 times. David Exley's challenging ride is a wonderful way to raise awareness of Samaritans and our need for more volunteers to cope with the increasing number of people in distress. Samaritans is the only helpline available 24 hours a day seven days a week, offering support to anyone struggling to cope."

Store support for Rotary



■ ASDA community colleague Sandra West with Ian Brooke at the Shelterbox display in the foyer at Asda

A DISPLAY and collection at Asda, Weymouth, raised £388 for Shelterbox.

The event was organised by Melcombe Regis Rotary Club with help from Asda staff and management.

Shelterbox is a charity, started by Rotary, to bring shelter, warmth and dignity to those who have lost everything wherever in the world they are.

Since it started eleven years ago, Shelterbox has responded to almost 200 natural or man-made disasters in more than 75 different countries and helped over one million people.

Club spokesman Ian Brooke said: "The recent floods in our own area have brought home to many of us what it must be like to lose absolutely everything you own in a flood or other natural disaster, so imagine how it must feel to suffer such a loss when there are no helicopters or even paved roads to bring help."

"This is where Shelterbox comes in, bringing by air, sea, river, camel, donkey or even on the backs of people, shelter, warmth and dignity to those who have lost everything."

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Green flag gardens

SANDSFOOT Gardens in Weymouth has gained a Green Flag Award and is officially one of the best open spaces in the country.

Friends of the Gardens and the council proudly announced that the award had been achieved for being a high quality green space that is well maintained and well managed with excellent facilities.

Greenhill Gardens in Weymouth and Easton Gardens on Portland also received the Green Flag Award for the sixth and fifth years in a row and Weymouth and Portland can proudly boast having three of the finest gardens in the UK.

Sandsfoot Gardens and Rodwell Trail Friends chairman David Carter said: "The aim of both the council's Parks team and the Friends was to attain Green Flag status following the opening of Sandsfoot Castle and receiving this award is definitely the icing on the cake."

"I would like to extend my thanks to the council's gardener, Martin Mildon, who works hard to ensure the gardens are always looking their best. To show off our fabulous gardens, we host a number of free events and our next one is a Butterfly Identification Day taking place on Sunday, July 29th at 1pm. We hope people will join us to rediscover this beautiful royal garden."

Cyclist seriously hurt

A CYCLIST has been found unconscious and seriously injured on a path under the footbridge at the Jurassic Roundabout at Littlemoor, Weymouth.

Police said the 41-year-old local man, who was discovered next to his bicycle at 3.30am on July 19th, was taken to Dorset County Hospital in a "serious" condition.

They are appealing for witnesses and PC Jon Ash of Weymouth road traffic police said: "At this time we cannot ascertain what has happened."

Anyone with information should call Dorset Police in confidence on 101 quoting incident number 19:69 or call the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on 0800 555 111.



■ ROSE QUEEN Chloe White, Trevor Peacock, attendant Christobelle West and her mother, Sam West

TV actor crowns the Rose Queen

NO, no, no...yes! He's here!

And Vicar of Dibley television star Trevor Peacock, who played bumbling Jim Trott, got a great welcome when he stepped forward to open St Edmund's Rose Garden Party in Weymouth.

He crowned Rose Queen Chloe White watched by her attendant, Christobelle West, before they all toured stalls.

The genial actor had listeners in stitches when he described some of his childhood church experiences, detailing how it was so long ago that as a boy he had to pump air to provide compression for the organ before it could be played.

But the expressions on congregation faces as they sang fascinated him and he used to peep round the organ curtain to look at them, pressure dropped and the organist used to urge: "Pump, pump, pump!"

Organiser Rod Adams said: "This event is our flagship fundraiser in aid of church funds and we were so lucky to get Trevor Peacock to open it for us. He was wonderful.

"We feel the Rose Garden Party really brings the community together and it is the highlight of our year."



■ ONE of the stalls at St Edmund's Garden Party

The Christian Column

AS I SEE IT ...
by Geoff Treleaven

Opening ceremony

I feel sure that the opening of the Olympic Games will be a spectacular occasion with no expense spared. For all those privileged to take part it must be somewhat nerve-racking and a tense time as they represent their country.

After many months of preparation and training, there will be the hope that their performance will be of the highest standard with no mistakes. Whatever their thoughts on this great day, they will all be anticipating what lies ahead.

With all the tension, it is inevitable that the urge to win will be so dominant that it will no longer feel like a game. However, taking part is a reward in itself – whatever the result. And a gold medal will be a real bonus!

This leads me to thinking of our Christian calling where the incentives are far beyond mere earthly rewards. This does not only relate to our clergy, where I have heard it said that whilst the pay might be minimal, the pension is 'Out of this world'. I would strongly suggest that it applies to any vocation undertaken as part of our service for Jesus Christ.

As the apostle Paul says: "...Christ's love compels us..." (2 Corinthians 5:14)

If you have a news story or a photo for the View from Weymouth or the View from Portland please call Harry Walton on 01305 787843 or email hdswalton@yahoo.co.uk

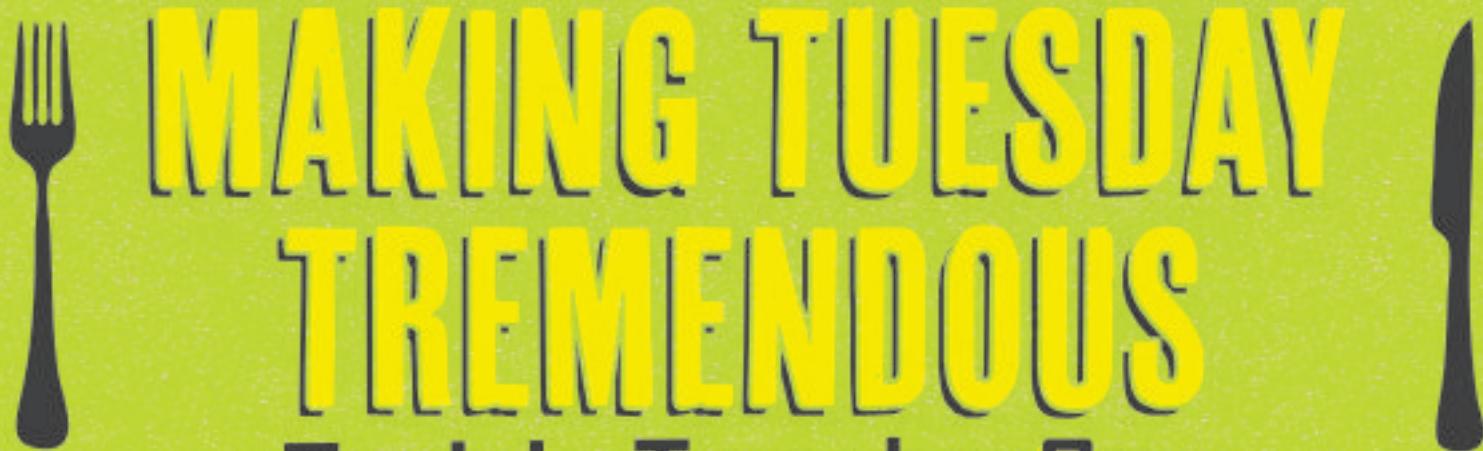
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Weymouth Matters

A personal View by HARRY WALTON

Going for gold

AN Olympic sailing team was not in a good mood when it became the latest in a host of victims chalked up to Weymouth's so-called intelligent transport system.

Members found themselves gridlocked on Boot Hill, trapped between one set of traffic lights and another.

Unable to go forward or back, they noticed a man doing a bit of weeding in his front garden.

Winding the window of their vehicle down, one of them shouted across to him: "Is it always like this?"

His reply came back that the area had been gridlocked ever since the new system had been brought in and he added: "If you'll take my advice you'll set off for Portland at least three hours before your Olympic sailing race."

"Why?" asked the team, the man replying: "Because that way you'll be the only competitors there. You're bound to win a gold medal!"

Short shrift for the elderly from current government

WHAT an absolute pig's ear the Government is making of looking after the elderly.

There has been uproar over pensioners facing having to sell their home to pay for care and, in typical Government fashion, ministers expelled a load of hot air about working to address this.

What they've come up with beggars belief because, having asked economist Andrew Dilnot to take a look at the situation, they are now backing off from his suggestion of a £35,000 cap, claiming it's the "right basis" for change but they want to look at something cheaper.

But here's the bit that takes the biscuit. Another key point in the Government's response to Dilnot is a proposal to make a deferred loan scheme available for those who need to pay for residential care.

What a wonderful example of daylight robbery! It effectively says that we, your caring sharing Government,

accept that pensioners should not have to sell their home to pay for their care so we'll loan you the money...then we'll claim it back from your estate ahead of grieving relatives. Naturally, of course, we'll be charging interest on the loan and claiming that back from the estate as well!

So if this "loan to help" ever goes ahead the result for pensioners will be the same because they still won't have anything to leave relatives.

Those with a home will still effectively be selling it to pay for their care, albeit in a roundabout way, while those only renting their home could actually, in some cases, hand on a care loan debt that the Government will be looking for relatives to pay.

All this is still thankfully at the ideas stage, but I hope to God it's humanely sorted out before I have to rely on any Government milk of human kindness because it seems in short supply to me.

But is it art?....

FINALLY a stylish reason has been produced to explain why Weymouth's much criticised intelligent transport system doesn't work.

You may remember another world-beating idea – the somewhat less than dazzling Veils of Light laser attraction on Weymouth Esplanade – which was vigorously defended by authority.

Critics were told by a senior council figure: "This is not a laser light show but a piece of artwork which is subtle and very special."

So could we all have been barking up the wrong tree about the traffic lights and junctions which delay hundreds of thousands of people every week?

Perhaps they weren't installed to help long suffering motorists but to lift our spirits as a piece of artwork we can all spend hours enjoying....whether we want to or not.

After all, what resident among us has not been delighted by recent work to illuminate the notorious "stones on sticks" sculpture at Littlemoor until midnight, dusk having previously drawn a merciful veil over the sculpture whose expense and look has been pilloried all over the world.

If our universally loathed traffic lights are really a "subtle piece of artwork" then they are too subtle for me. Who's for bringing back the roundabouts along with the fairy lights?



■ CLOWN fish explore their new home

Finding Nemo

VISITORS will have no problem finding Nemo in Weymouth now that the UK's largest collection of common clownfish has opened at the Sea Life Adventure Park.

Park curator Fiona Smith said: "You may not know the name but everybody knows the common clownfish with its bold orange, black and white stripes. They are instantly recognisable as Disney's favourite marine character, Nemo."

The attraction, found on entering Treasure of the Deep, confronts visitors with a stunning display of 350 of these adorable creatures and the display is on show now.

The fish are all captive bred juveniles received from the Tropical Marine Centre, but Weymouth Sea Life and Adventure Park hopes to add the common clownfish to their very successful breeding programme in the future.

Fiona said: "We are already attempting to breed the Maroon clownfish — no babies yet — and would like to add the common clownfish to our programme."



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INSIDE: Portland Boxing Club awards evening



■ BEST SENIOR NEWCOMER: Steve Brand receives his award from John Mackenzie (representing sponsors Redfern & Co Solicitors) at Portland Boxing club's recent presentation evening
See page 55 inside for more photos

Byerley makes swift return to Weymouth

by Stuart Broom
stuart@pemedia.co.uk

THE COMPUTER couldn't have staged it better if it had tried when the Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division fixtures were released last week - pairing Weymouth at home to Kettering Town on the opening day of the season. It means an immediate return to the Bob Lucas Stadium for striker Warren Byerley, only this time in the Poppies' colours after his summer move away from the Terras.

However controversial former chairman George Rolls will not be in attendance having been banned for five years

from all football activities after being found guilty of over 3,000 breaches of FA rules relating to betting.

Rolls sold out to a consortium headed by Nigel Biddlecombe in February to take over a stand-in chairman at the crisis-torn Northamptonshire club, but the ban meant he had to stand down immediately he was found guilty last month.

The Terras follow this match with two away fixtures at Chippenham Town (Aug 21st) and St Neots Town (Aug 25th) before entertaining Bideford Town on Bank Holiday Monday.

They play the return match at Kettering Town three days before Christmas (Dec 22nd) before hosting Bashley on Boxing Day and St Neots Town (Dec 29th) before travelling to Bideford on New Year's Day.

They complete the campaign with a visit to Arlesey Town on April 27th.

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